

## Message Text

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17

ACTION OES-06

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SUBJECT: REACTION TO FISHERY ISSUE

REF: TOKYO 11540

1. IN THE PAST WEEK, THE MAJOR JAPANESE NEWS MEDIA HAVE BEGUN REACTING MORE STRONGLY TO THE PROSPECT OF THE RESTRICTIONS ANTICIPATED FROM THE UPCOMING US-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS; AND ON 8/16 THE FIRST PUBLIC APPEAL FOR SUPPORT WAS MADE ON TOKYO'S STREETS BY THE PRESIDENTS OF TEN BIG FISHERY COMPANIES. WHILE INNER-PAGE FEATUREES HAVE GIVEN REASONABLY ACCURATE ANALYSES OF THE U.S. FISHERY CONSERVATION LAW AND HAVE NOTED THAT FISH STOCKS ARE DECLINING IN THE FACE OF OVERFISHING, THE PRESIDENTS' STREET APPEAL AND RECENT EDITORIALS IN JAPAN'S BIG THREE DAILIES HAVE SERIOUSLY DISTORTED THE SITUATION AND MIS-REPRESENTED THE U.S. LAW.

2. THE 8/14 EDITORIAL IN THE DAILY "ASAHI," LABELLED "APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON THE FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS," WARNED THAT POOR HANDLING OF THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS COULD LEAD TO DESTRUCTION OF OUR DEEP-SEA FISHERIES," AND CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN "QUITE BRUSQUE" TOWARD JAPANESE REQUESTS AT THE JUNE PRELIMINARY TALKS. "ASAHI" ASKED WHY THE U.S. MUST "RUSH NOW

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TO IMPOSE ITS OWN 'ENCLSOURES,' WHEN THE LOS CONFERENCE IS CLOSE

TO CREATING A NEW ORDER OF THE SEAS," AND "WHERE HAS THE HONOR GONE OF THE GREEAT POWER THAT WOULD LEAD WORLD ORDER?" IT SUGGESTED THAT JAPANESE WILL BE TOTALLY BARRED FROM FISHING OFF THE U.S., CAUSING A 15 PERCENT LOSS IN THE ANIMAL PROTEIN AVAILABLE TO "THE JAPANESE RACE." IT WARNED THAT THE USSR AND OTHERS IGT WELL FOLLOW SUITE ON EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONES, DEPRIVING JAPAN OF ONE THIRD OF ITS FISH CATCH. IT WARNED THAT THE "SMALL RESOURCE-POOR" ISLANDS OF JAPAN CANNOT SUPPORT 110 MILLION PEOPLE WITHOUT RELYING ON THE SEAS TO PRODUCE HALF OF THE ANIMAL PROTEIN FOR THE JAPANESE DIET. "JAPANESE FEELINGS TOWARD AMERICA WILL BE SHAKEN TO THE ROOTS IF AMERICA BRINGS ABOUT THE EXYINCTION OF OUR DEEP-SEA FISHERIES," ASAHI WARNED, AND AID SUCH AN EVENTUALITY WOULD MAKE THE JAPANESE FEEL THAT THEIRVERY "RIGHT TO SURVIVE" WAS BEING DENIED.

3. THE 8/16 "MAINICHI" EDITORIAL ALSO WARNED THAT THE US-JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS WILL DETERMINE THE FATE OF JAPAN'S DEEP-SEA FISHERIES, AND ANY DEEP CUTS IN THE ALLOWED CATCH WOULD MEAN MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE FISH AND EVEN SHORTAGES OF ANIMAL-PROTEIN FOODS IN JAPAN. "MAINICHI" CONTRASTED JAPAN'S AID TO LDC'S IN DEVELOPING THEIR FISHERIES WITH THE "EGOISM OF A BIG POWER" REFLECTED IN AMERICA'S DOMESTIC LAW THAT IGNORES THE SPIRIT OF PAST SEA LAW: THAT "OCEAN RESOURCES ARE A COMMON RESOURCE OF MANKIND." MAINICHI APPEALED TO THE U.S. TO "DISPLAY AND APPROPRIATELY SENSIBLE ATTITUDE."

4. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, THE 8/16 YOMIRU EDITORIAL APPEALED TO THE U.S. TO RESPECT JAPAN'S TRADITIONAL FISHERIES AND "EXERCISE THE GREATEST FORBEARANCE SO AS NOT TO CAUSE ECONOMIC CHAOS." IT NOTED THAT U.S. SCHOLARS HAVE VIEWED THE 1976 LAW AS A VIOLATION OF THE 1958 FISHERY CONSERVATION TREATY. WHILE NOTING THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TREND TOWARD 200-MILE ZONES, THE EDITORIAL SAW A SPECIAL PROBLEM IN THE U.S. LAW PERMITTING FISHING-QUOTA CALCULATIONS TO INCLUDE EVEN THE LATENT CAPABILITY OF U.S. FISHERMEN TO EXLOIT OFFSHORE FISHERIES--A PROVISION THAT COULD RESULT IN AMERICA "UNILATERIALLY CONSTRUCTING" ALLOCATIONS TO OTHER NATIONS. THE EDITORIAL ENDED BY URGING THE U.S. TO ENTER INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A HIGH, DIPLOMATIC STANDPOINT BASED ON THE LONG-RANGE VIEW "SO AS TO KEEP FRIENDLY JAPAN-US RELATIONS FIRM."

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5. MORE BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE APPEARED IN A TWO-PART "MAINICHI" INNER-PAGE FEATURE AUGUST 12-13, IT BEGAN BY POSING THE QUESTION OF WHY JAPANESE FISHERY CIRCLES HAVE NOT SURROUNDED THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TOKYO WITH PROTESTING FISHERMEN. IT FOUND THE ANSWERS IN FACT THAT BIG FISHERY COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY FORESEEN DECLINE OF STOCKS OF SUCH SPECIES AS ALASKA POLLACK AND ARE SWITCHING TO PRODUCTION OF HIGHER VALUE-

ADDED PROCESSED FISH, WHILE SMALLER FIRMS ARE AIMING FOR GOJ  
COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES THEY WILL SUFFER FROM APPLICATION OF THE  
U.S. LAW. THE INDUSTRY ALSO IS SHOWING KEEN INTEREST IN THE NEWS  
OF SOVIET FIRMS MOVING TO SET UP JOINT VENTURES WITH U.S. COMPANIES  
THAT WOULD EXPORT US-CAUGHT FISH TO THE USSR. THE ARTICLE  
STRESSED THE "EXTRAVAGANT AND WASTEFUL" WAY THAT JAPAN HAS USED  
FISH IN RECENT YEARS, QUOTED A JAPAN FISHERIES AGENCY SOURCE ON  
WAYS THAT JAPAN'S COASTAL FISHERY CATCH CAN BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY,  
AND NOTED THAT THIS PLUS VIGOROUS DEVELOPMENT OF  
AQUACULTURE WILL GREATLY EASE THE PROTEIN PINCH. BUT, THE  
ARTICLE CONCLUDED, THERE IS NO WAY THAT JAPAN CAN AVOID HAVING  
THE US-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS HIT JAPAN'S DINING TABLES LIKE  
THE SHOCK OF A VERTICAL EARTHQUAKE. "WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THE  
PRESENT ERA OF EXTRAVAGANT EATING OF FISH HAS PASSED."

6. THE 8/17 DAILY "NIHON KEIZAI"--JAPAN'S "WALL STREET JOURNAL"  
--AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "JAPAN TIMES" REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENTS  
OF TEN BIG FISHERY COMPANIES LAUNCHED AN APPEAL AT NOON 8/16 IN  
DOWNTOWN TOKYO WITH BIG SIGNS AND 3,000 FREE CANS OF SALMON  
BEARING SUCH A SLOGAN AS "DON'T TAKE THE FISH FROM JAPANESE  
TABLES." AND "JAPAN'S MOST VALUED NORTHERN FISHING GROUNDS FACE  
A THREAT. IN THE U.S. THE CONGRESS HAS PASSED A FISHERY CON-  
SERVATION AND CONTROL LAW AND IS TRYING UNILATERALLY TO SHUT OUT  
FOREIGN FISHING BOATS." SIGNATURES WERE BEING COLLECTED. ONE  
PRESIDENT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO EAT  
TUNA OR OCTOPUS." OTHERS TALKED OF JAPAN'S ANNUAL CATCH BEING  
REDUCED BY 4.5 MILLION TONS, THIS WAS LEAD STORY ON CITY NEWS  
PAGE OF "NIHON KEIZAI."

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